

## Pronouncing Mandarin From Pinyin Romanization

For many Pinyin spellings, you can just follow your instincts. Here are a view spellings that an English speaker needs to pay special attention to.

For more details, go to

<http://anthro.ucsd.edu/~dkjordan//chin/pinyin1.html>

### Consonants:

- c = English ts (as in "hats")
- q = English ch (as in "cheat")
- r = something between American r and French j)
- x = English sh (as in "sheet")
- z = English ds (as in "fads")
- zh = English j (as in "Joe"; not like French j!)

### Vowels:

- i after h or r = English r (as in "grr")
- i after s, c, z = English z (as in "bzzzz")
- i elsewhere = English ee (as in "beet")
- ian or yan = English yen (as in ¥)
- ui = English way (as in "lost his way")
- u after q, j, x, or y = French u or German ü (Arrange your lips to say oo as in "goo" and then try to say ee as in "see.")
- u elsewhere = English oo (as in "pooh")
- ü or yu = French u or German ü (place your lips to say oo and try to say ee)

### Tones.

Tones are pitch patterns. Standard Mandarin has four tones, which can be represented in Romanized text by diacritical marks or (in older texts or Email) by numbers:

1. Macron ("long mark") (a or a<sup>1</sup>) = high, even pitch (first tone)
2. Acute accent (á or a<sup>2</sup>) = rising pitch (second tone)
3. Caron, hachek, or breve accent (a or a<sup>3</sup>) = pitch that falls then rises (third tone)
4. Grave accent (à or a<sup>4</sup>) = dropping pitch (fourth tone)

When two third tones come together, the first is pronounced as a second, but still written as a third.